

Rice Report

JUNE 2009 E-NEWS

Rice's Record 2008-2009

Committee Attendance
and Voting Record

100%

County Board Meeting
Attendance

100%

Committee Assignments

Judiciary, Safety and
General Services

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Economic and
Community
Development

Member:

Milwaukee County
Research Park Board

Milwaukee Regional
Medical Center Board

War Memorial Board
of Directors

Dear Friends:

Welcome to another issue of my electronic newsletter. I hope you find these updates on my work as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to be helpful and informative.

Included in this newsletter information are opportunities that you can take advantage of during the upcoming summer months right here in Milwaukee County. Whether it is visiting one of many wonderful county parks or taking the kids for a dip at the newly opened Dave Schultz Aquatic Park, I certainly hope you enjoy everything Milwaukee County has to offer this summer.

If you have any questions or if there are ways I can be helpful, please contact me at (414) 278-4243 or send me an e-mail at Joseph.Rice@milwcnty.com.

Sincerely,



Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph Rice, 6th District

901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Telephone: (414) 278-4243 **Fax:** (414) 223-1380

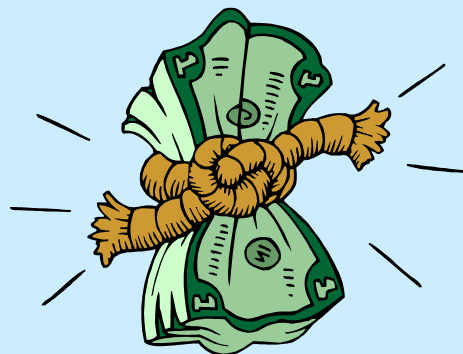
E-mail: joseph.rice@milwcnty.com

Website: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/Rice>

2010 Budget Outlooks

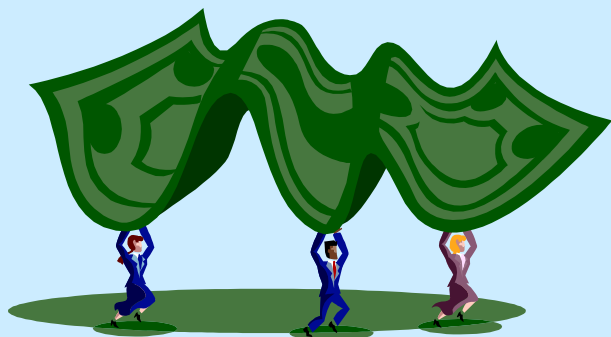
Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker recently held a listening session on the 2010 Milwaukee County Budget, outlining the current fiscal challenges facing Milwaukee County.

The County Executive announced that Milwaukee County is facing a significant budget gap for 2010 fiscal year. This structural deficit assumes no reduction in current service levels, no change in county staff, and no new services.



The County Executive outlined his preliminary goals for the 2010 Budget, including:

- No increase in the County property tax levy
- Continued commitment to core services for Milwaukee County residents
- Addressing the long term structural deficit
- Focusing on core services county government ought to provide
- Pursuit of regional consolidation of services.



The County Board and County Executive must cooperate on the means to address the budget gap.

I concur that we cannot simply raise taxes upon already fiscally strained Milwaukee County residents. Instead, we should focus upon making county services more efficient and consolidating them.

Milwaukee County must adopt a broad and comprehensive strategy in order to effectively deal with its fiscal challenges both on short and-long term basis.

The County Executive's sustainability plan begins that process. You can learn the details of the sustainability plan [here](#).

The 2010 Budget adoption schedule will be as follows:

September 24, 2009 – County Executive will introduce the Proposed 2010 Budget.

October 2009 – Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee will consider the budget and make amendments.

November 2, 2009 – County Board will hold a Public Hearing on the Amended Budget.

November 9, 2009 – Milwaukee County Board will vote on adopting the Amended Budget.

November 18, 2009 – Milwaukee County Board will consider potential vetoes from the County Executive.

Supervisor Rice Accepts Award on Behalf of the Ethics Code Study Committee

The Milwaukee County Code of Ethics Study Committee has been awarded the 2009 Award for Government Transparency and Ethics at the Public Policy Forum's "Salute to Local Government." This is the highest award that the Public Policy Forum gives to government officials. Public Policy Forum is Milwaukee's leading independent policy institute monitoring Southeast Wisconsin governments since 1913.



The award recognizes the Ethics Code Study Committee, a blue ribbon panel which I had the privilege to chair and which was charged by the County Board in 2006 to study and improve the Milwaukee County Ethics Code, an ordinance governing standards of conduct for County officials and employees.

The Public Policy Forum's award honored the Committee's demonstration through leadership and innovation that "government works" for its citizens and taxpayers.

The Ethics Code Study Committee Members at the Public Policy Forum award ceremony (from left): Rick Ceschin, Charles Mulcahy, Supervisor Rice, Dr. Joan Prince, and Robert Andrews.

Pension Settlement

Milwaukee County's lawsuit against Mercer, Inc. resulted in a settlement, with Mercer paying Milwaukee County \$45 million in damages. After fees and expenditures, the balance will be invested in the pension fund to help offset some of the costs of future pension obligations.

Milwaukee County alleged that in 2000 Mercer Human Resource Consulting was negligent in giving advice to the County Board and County Executive regarding the backdrop and other pension benefits for county employees.

Milwaukee County also alleged that Mercer wrongly advised the Pension Study Commission, a body which is required to receive the input from an actuary - such as Mercer Inc. - when assessing costs of proposed pension changes.

Despite the positive news that Milwaukee County has achieved with a payment from Mercer, the pension changes continue to impose a significant burden upon County taxpayers.



Dave Schultz Aquatic Park Open to the Public

Enjoy the newest family aquatic park in Milwaukee County! Speed down the tube and body waterslides, then float along the Lazy River. The water is heated and your littlest swimmers will enjoy the interactive water toys including spray jets, spray posts, water troughs, the Bucket Dump and more. Test your diving skills in the deep well, do some lap swimming, or play water basketball in the "leisure pool." When you need some rest, relax in a lounge chair on the pool deck and enjoy food and beverages from the concession stand.



The water slides at the new aquatic park promise quite the thrill!

The [park](#) is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday through Sunday.

Admission is \$6.50 for adults, \$5 for kids and seniors and \$4 for children 3 and younger. Night-time swimming (after 6 p.m.) is available for \$4.

Season passes are also available at \$50 for individuals and \$135 for an entire family (up to four members; each additional pass for a child costs \$25).

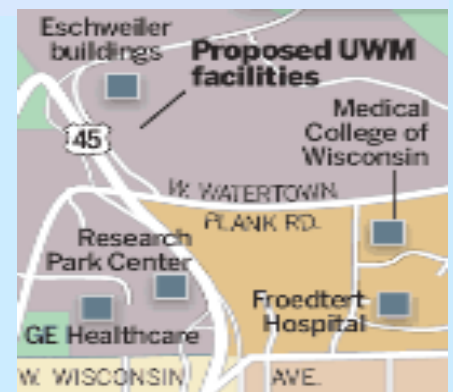
UW-M Land Sale

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors during its May 21, 2009 meeting approved an agreement to sell part of the county-owned land located at the Milwaukee County Grounds in Wauwatosa to UW-Milwaukee for the purpose of constructing a new state-of-the-art engineering campus.

Developing the new engineering campus on the County Grounds presents many advantages to both the school and Milwaukee County. One of the main benefits of having the new engineering school on this location is the potential for coordinated biomedical research efforts and mutual support between the new school and the already existing research and development institutions such as the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center as well as the Milwaukee County Research Park Corporation.

Building the new engineering school also increases the potential to obtain additional federal research funds, and create employment opportunities in Milwaukee County.

The agreement includes provisions that protect the Monarch Trail – an area located on the County Grounds that plays an important part in the annual migration of monarch butterflies - and ensures that disruption of natural habitats due to new campus construction will be minimized. These provisions were developed in consultation with the public, including representatives of the Friends of Monarch Trail group, the Sierra Club, Parks People of Milwaukee County and Milwaukee Riverkeepers.



New Dog Parks to Open This Summer

Four new dog exercise areas open in Milwaukee County this summer. For the first time fenced dog exercise areas will open in Estabrook Park, Currie Park, Lake Park and Bay View Park allowing dog owners to legally exercise their pets without a leash.

The Estabrook Park exercise area is located at 4400 N. Estabrook Drive, just across the road from the park pavilion.

All of the new dog exercise areas will be fenced in with double-gated entries. Lake and Currie will be neighborhood sized dog parks about 1/2 to 1 acre in size and Estabrook will be a community sized dog park between 3-8 acres in size.



Kohl Park Hiking Trail Wins National Recreation Trail Designation

The Kohl Park Hiking Trail located in Kohl Park, 7603 W. County Line Rd., has been designated as a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior. It joins 21 other newly designated National Recreation Trails across the United States.



The 2-mile Kohl Park Hiking Trail was constructed in 2006 by the Milwaukee Conservation Leadership Corps and has been improved by local scout troops and community volunteers. For more information contact the Milwaukee County Parks Department at (414) 257-PARK or visit the Milwaukee County Parks [website](http://countyparks.com).

MMSD Announces Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates and Sites

Milwaukee County residents are welcome to use several hazardous waste collection sites set up by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District throughout the county. Ensure that your hazardous waste is disposed in a safe and environmentally friendly manner by bringing it to one of the following collection sites at designated times:



Wauwatosa City Hall (7725 W. North Ave.) - September 12, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

State Fair Park, Gate 8 (off 76th Street) - Oct. 16, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. / Oct. 17, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m

Please visit the [MMSD website](http://mmsd.com) for a list of hazardous materials accepted at the site and all additional details.

Stop Means Stop!

Fox Point resident A. Paul Pedersen recently forwarded the following informative letter on traffic safety. Please take a moment to read it.

“With the summer around the corner many will be heading outdoors and likely driving. I would like to take this opportunity to outline few reminders to keep in mind when you’re on the road this summer.

Stop means stop! Unless you are on the way to the Emergency Room, that red octagon sign with white letters means you must come to a full and complete stop. Not a slow rolling slide through the intersection but a complete standstill. And if you can’t get a good view of oncoming traffic, it’s okay to pull ahead and stop again to get a better view and then proceed. Oh yes, and please stop before you get to the sign, not after. It’s so much easier for others to proceed if they don’t have to climb over your hood.



Yield means yield! That upside down red and white triangle with red letters means you must slow down and yield the right of way to traffic, pedestrians, and even bicycles in the intersection you are entering. It’s not a race to see who gets there first. If the sign faces you, it’s for you. And by the way, if you happen to see a little green person standing in the middle of the road holding a yield sign, that means "yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk." State law requires you to stop. Not swerve to get around them. Not honk the horn. And as long as were on the subject, pedestrians always have the right of way in any crosswalk.



Watch out for Bikes! Most drivers understand that bicyclists have the same rights to the road as vehicles and are entitled to a full traffic lane. They may not like it, but that's the way it is. But, more and more cyclists need to remember they don't have superior rights. It’s really okay to ride two, three and four abreast down the roadways while you discuss world events or last night's dinner, but please get back into a single file formation and let the cars and trucks get past. The pack arrangement is great for maintaining a constant pace, but these are recreational rides. You are not competing in the Tour de' France.



Eliminate the distractions! Please eliminate the distractions that compete for our attention while we are aiming three thousand pounds of metal and plastic. We all know what they are: cell phones, I-Pods, headphones, eating, drinking, shaving, make-up, reading, writing, using your computer, texting, pets on your lap etc, etc, etc. We know better.



When did we become so busy that the rules of the road no longer apply? Remember, Stop Means Stop.” Have a safe journey.

Events at Milwaukee County Parks

Northpoint Burgers and Custard Open for Business at Bradford Beach

Enjoy a nice burger or cool down with some custard from the newly opened snack bar at Bradford Beach. Northpoint Burgers and Custard is the newest addition to the line of services offered at the lakefront and it promises good service and quality food at a reasonable price.

Friday Fish Fries Begin in Several Milwaukee County Parks

Friday evening fish fries are back from 4-8pm in four Milwaukee County Parks. Baked or fried cod with French fries or garlic diced red potatoes, cole slaw, marble rye bread and cake will be available. Fish fries will be served every Friday from 4-8pm through September 4th at four county park golf clubhouses:

- 1). Grant - 100 E. Hawthorne Ave.,.....(414) 762-4817
- 2). Greenfield – 12035 W. Greenfield Ave..... (414) 453-8304
- 3). Whitnall – 6751 S. 92nd St..... (414) 425-1810
- 4). Brown Deer – 7625 N. Range Line Rd...(414) 352-8220



The cost is \$8.25 per person with an extra \$1.00 charge for an additional piece of fish. Children's portions for ages 12 & under are \$4.25 (\$4.75 at Brown Deer). Call for reservations or carryouts. For more information go to countyparks.com or call (414) 257-6100.



Concerts in the Parks



This year's FREE concert series will include a variety of genres for the public to enjoy with local groups opening at 6pm and the bands taking the stage at 6:30pm. Concert attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the live music. Concessions from Milwaukee County Park's trucks as well as refreshments from various local restaurants will be available.

June 30	American Legion Band.....	6:30-8:30pm
July 7	Christopher's Project.....	6:30-8:30pm
July 14	Limberhorn.....	6:30-8:30pm
July 21	Sue DeBaco and Wise Fools.....	6:30-8:30pm
July 28	Swing Nouveau.....	6:30-8:30pm

For detailed information regarding park activities throughout the whole year, please visit: [Year-at-Glance Milwaukee County Parks 2009 Calendar](#).

The Beach is Back at Bradford Beach for 2009 Summer Season!

The Milwaukee County Parks Department is pleased to announce the highly anticipated return of Bradford Beach with the re-opening of the beach house, return of the lifeguards and sports events for beach volleyball and soccer.

After a landmark 2008 at Bradford Beach, 2009 looks to be more popular than ever with special events for families, young professionals, athletes and beach goers of all kinds. The services and events schedule can be found at <http://www.bradfordbeachjam.com>.



Golf

Brown Deer Park Golf Course

7625 N. Range Line Road; (414) 352-8080

Challenging layout, with 60 sand-filled bunkers, tree-lined fairways and water winding throughout the course. Even professionals navigate this stately course – the home of the PGA Tour's US Bank Championship!

To practice swinging like the pros, take advantage of the driving range at Brown Deer Park or sign up for group lessons through the Wisconsin Section of the PGA. Contact the Head Pro for details.

Make sure to stop by and check out the newly remodeled club house!

Dretzka Golf Course

12020 W. Bradley Road; (414) 354-7300

Designed for the low-handicap golfer, this Championship layout has offered challenging play since 1964. Water is prevalent throughout the course, crossing 12 of the 18 holes. Although it seems wide open, the narrow, sculpted fairways and long rough create a slicer's nightmare. You can also play [disc golf](#) at Dretzka Park.

Make your [on-line reservation](#) today or make your reservation using the automated phone reservation system at (414) 475-6222.

If you wish to be removed from this list please reply to this e-mail and write “**unsubscribe**” in the Subject column.